

**Listing of Claims**

1-18. (Cancelled)

19. (Original) A method for inhibiting recognition of cells or tissues by both CD8+ and CD4+ T cells, comprising introducing into a mammal a purified US2 protein, or a therapeutically effective fragment thereof.

20. (Original) The method of claim 19, wherein the therapeutically effective US2 fragment is a soluble US2 fragment.

21. (Original) The method of claim 19, wherein the purified protein is exogenously supplied.

22. (Original) The method of claim 19, wherein the purified protein is expressed from a recombinant cell.

23. (Original) A purified soluble protein having US2 protein biological activity, and comprising an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of:

- (a) residues 28 through 143 shown in SEQ ID NO: 3;
- (b) amino acids sequences that differ from those specified in (a) by one or more conservative amino acid substitutions; and
- (c) amino acid sequences having at least 70% sequence identity to the sequences specified in (a) or (b).

24. (Cancelled).

25. (Original) A soluble protein according to claim 23, comprising the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 5.

26-28 (Cancelled).

29. (Original) A method for inhibiting a CD4+ mediated immune response, comprising introducing into a mammal a purified US2 protein, or a therapeutically effective fragment thereof.

30. (Original) The method of claim 29, wherein the therapeutically effective US2 fragment is a soluble US2 fragment.

31. (Original) A method for inhibiting an immune response in a subject, comprising administering to the subject an amount of a US2 protein, sufficient to inhibit the immune response.

32. (Original) The method according to claim 31, wherein the protein is administered in the form of a pharmaceutical composition.

33. (Original) The method according to claim 31, wherein the immune response is a CD4+ mediated immune response.

34. (Original) The method according to claim 31, wherein the immune response is selected from the group consisting of autoimmune responses, transplant immune responses, and gene therapy immune responses.

35. (Original) The method of claim 31, wherein the US2 protein is soluble.

36. (Original) The method of claim 35, wherein the soluble US2 protein is the soluble US2 protein of claim 23.

37. (Original) A composition comprising the protein according to claim 23.

38. (Original) A pharmaceutical composition comprising the protein according to claim 23 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.